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NEWS ITEMS

The announcement is out for *Physiological Researches* a new publication which is to appear at irregular intervals and is to be devoted, as its title hints, to researches in physiology. Both plant and animal physiology are to be included, although those who are responsible for the enterprise are all botanists. "Each volume will be completed in no specified time, is to contain not less than 450 pages, the latter numbered serially throughout." Further information about the proposed new publication can be obtained from Dr. D. T. MacDougal, of the Carnegie Institution, Washington; Dr. H. M. Richards, Barnard College, Columbia University, or from Dr. B. E. Livingston, of Johns Hopkins University, who is the manager.

At the recent Cleveland meeting of the Botanical Society of America the following officers were elected for 1913: *President*, D. H. Campbell, Leland Stanford; *Vice-President*, M. A. Howe, New York Botanical Garden; *Treasurer*, Arthur Hollick, New York Botanical Garden; *Councilor*, G. F. Atkinson, Cornell University. Dr. G. T. Moore's election as secretary in 1912, at the Washington meeting, is effective until 1917. At the Cleveland meeting a resolution was carried authorizing a committee of five to establish a journal. The committee consists of F. C. Newcombe, *Chairman*; L. R. Jones, G. T. Moore, D. S. Johnson and R. A. Harper.

Under the auspices of the Carnegie Institution, the New York Botanical Garden and the Smithsonian Institution an expedition left New York on January 25 for the West Indies. Dr. and Mrs. Britton, Miss D. Marble, Dr. Shafer and Dr. J. N. Rose will visit St. Thomas, the Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe and Martinique, returning by way of Porto Rico, where Dr. Shafer will remain. The chief object is to collect living and herbarium specimens of cacti.

The United States Geological Survey has just issued a publication of great interest to plant geographers. It is a work of 900 pages on the geology of North America, by Bailey Willis. It is

issued as Professional Paper No. 71 and the exact title is "Index to the Stratigraphy of North America." The book, together with a geologic map of the continent, is now obtainable gratis from the survey.

Dr. H. A. Gleason, of the University of Michigan, spent the month of January at the New York Botanical Garden studying the genus *Vernonia* and other subjects.

Mr. Eugene Smith, formerly a member of the Torrey Club and for some time chairman of the field committee, died in Brooklyn on Christmas Day. He was fifty-two years old, and the editor of the *Aquarium* at the time of his death.

At the University of Minnesota Dr. F. E. Clements will lecture on "Plants and the Cost of Living" on March 5, and Dr. E. M. Freeman will lecture on "Sickness in Plants,—Causes and Remedies," on March 12. These two lectures are part of a series of 21 offered by the university upon "Modern Development in Science."

Dr. H. N. Whitford known for his work on the family *Dipterocarpaceae*, which includes many of the most important timber trees of the Philippine Islands, has resigned his position of associate professor of botany, at the University of the Philippines and will return to the United States.

Dr. J. M. Coulter and Dr. N. L. Britton were among the members of the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science appointed at the recent Cleveland meeting, to serve for three years.

At the same meeting the Botanical Society of America held a symposium on "Permeability and Osmotic Pressure" and the Phytopathological Society on "International Phytopathological Problems."

Dr. H. C. Cowles was elected vice-president and Dr. W. J. V. Osterhout, secretary of section G, Botany, at the Cleveland meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Mr. Thomas Howell, the well-known Oregon botanist, died December 3, 1912. He was born in Missouri on October 9, 1842, and was consequently in his 71st year at the time of his death. He was a pioneer of Oregon, moving there in 1850. He devoted many years of his life to the study of the flora of Oregon, tramping over nearly every portion of the State. His knowledge of the northwestern flora is embodied in the work entitled *The Flora of Northwestern America*. Perhaps the most noteworthy discovery of Mr. Howell was the finding of *Picea Breweriana*, a very local tree and the last of the Pacific Coast conifers to be discovered.

The Philadelphia Natural History Society announces the following lectures of interest to botanists: February 20, "The Arum Family," by Lydia P. Borden; April 17, "Fresh Water Algae," by George B. Kaiser; May 15, "Mountain Plants," by Lillie M. Jenkins; September 18, "Chemistry of Plant Life," by Charles H. La Wall. The lectures will be held at the Wagner Free Institute of Science, 17th Street and Montgomery Avenue, Philadelphia. Dr. John W. Harshberger is president of the society.

Professor A. S. Hitchcock, systematic agrostologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture has returned from the West Indies. He visited Jamaica, Trinidad, Tobago and, incidentally, Cartagena and Puerto de Columbia. In Jamaica, 643 numbers of grasses were obtained, representing about 168 species, and including all except four of the species known from this island, and many species not hitherto recorded. From Trinidad 337 numbers were collected, representing 140 species, and from Tobago 90 numbers representing 65 species. Mr. Hitchcock was successful in re-collecting nearly all the species whose type localities are in these islands.

Mr. James E. Weaver, instructor in botany in the State College of Washington, by act of the Board of Regents, has been advanced to the position of assistant professor of plant physiology and ecology.

At the annual meeting of the Torrey Club, held January 14, the following officers were elected for the year. *President*, E. S. Burgess; *Vice-Presidents*, H. M. Richards and J. H. Barnhart; *Secretary-Treasurer*, B. O. Dodge; *Editor*, E. L. Morris; *Associate Editors*, Jean Broadhurst, E. D. Clark, A. W. Evans, M. A. Howe, H. M. Richards, A. B. Stout, and Norman Taylor. Dr. William Mansfield was reelected delegate to the council of the New York Academy of Sciences.

Hereafter manuscripts intended for publication in the *Bulletin* should be addressed to Mr. E. L. Morris, Central Museum, Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, N. Y., and manuscripts intended for publication in *TORREYA* should be addressed to Norman Taylor, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mrs. Marie A. Underwood, R. D. 25, Bethel, Conn., requests that anyone having books loaned by the late Professor Lucien M. Underwood will kindly forward them to the Department of Botany, Columbia University.

From the *Stanford Alumnus* (December) we learn of a collection of portraits of botanists which is in the library of the department of botany at Leland Stanford University. It comprises pictures of Darwin and Huxley, a steel engraving of Linnaeus by Clement Bernic, a stipple engraving of Tournefort and J. D. Hooker. There are also portraits of Humboldt and Asa Gray.

Dr. R. C. Benedict, 2702 Bainbridge Avenue, Fordham, N. Y. City, has been appointed editor of the *American Fern Journal*, to succeed Dr. Philip Dowell.

At the recent meeting of the American Phytopathological Society at Cleveland the following officers were elected for 1913:

President—F. C. Stewart, New York Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y.

Vice-president—Haven Metcalf, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Secretary-treasurer—C. L. Shear, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Councillor—W. J. Morse, Agricultural Experiment Station, Orono, Me.

The society decided to hold its next annual meeting at Atlanta, Georgia, in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Professor William J. G. Land, of the department of botany of the University of Chicago, has returned with a large collection of botanical specimens from Australia and the islands of the Pacific.

We learn from *Science* that William Greenwood Wright, an entomologist, died on Sunday afternoon, December 1, 1912, in the eighty-third year of his age. He had been in apparently good health and spirits for some time past. His name is frequent in the two large volumes, "Botany of California," as he was an enthusiastic collector of plants. He was a close friend of the two pioneer botanists and collectors, Edward Palmer and C. C. Parry, and made many excursions, of varying lengths, with them.

We learn from the *Bulletin of Foreign Plant Introductions* (No. 81) of a little-known fiber plant, *Abroma augusta*. Raised from seeds from Calabar, Eastern Province, southern Nigeria. It is "a large open bush widely distributed throughout the hot moist portions of India, now cultivated in Africa. The bark affords a strong white bast fiber, which is easily separated by wetting in water or by decortication. It is readily propagated by cuttings and may be made to yield annually two or three crops of shoots, from 4 to 8 feet long, but requires rich land and plenty of moisture. The fiber which is said to be stronger than sunn hemp is strong, white and clean, and is chiefly used for cordage by the natives."

From the same source is taken the following account of an interesting plant, *Asparagus acutifolius*, which is a wild asparagus from Nice, Alpes Maritimes, France. "This plant is abundant here in the wild state and the young shoots are gathered and form a regular article of commerce in the market. The shoots are much thinner than those of *Asparagus officinalis* (in its cultivated form) but are very delicate of taste. The plant grows in the very worst places as concerns absence of soil (in fissures of rocks, high on the slopes of gravel, etc.), as well in the full burning

sun as in deep shade and it seems to me that so drought-resistant a plant would be worth introducing for use in desert regions." The plant is of interest especially from the fact that most of the genus is South African.

Dr. A. J. Grout has resigned as editor of the *Bryologist* and has been succeeded by Dr. O. E. Jennings, of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh.

Dr. R. Ruggles Gates, lecturer in biology, St. Thomas Hospital, London, is giving a course of lectures on heredity and mutations at the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

Dr. Karl M. Wiegand, of Wellesley College, has been appointed professor of botany in the State College of Agriculture of Cornell University.

Dr. A. B. Stout, director of the laboratories at the New York Botanical Garden, has been appointed editor of the garden *Journal* to succeed Dr. F. J. Seaver, who will hereafter devote more of his time to *Mycologia*.